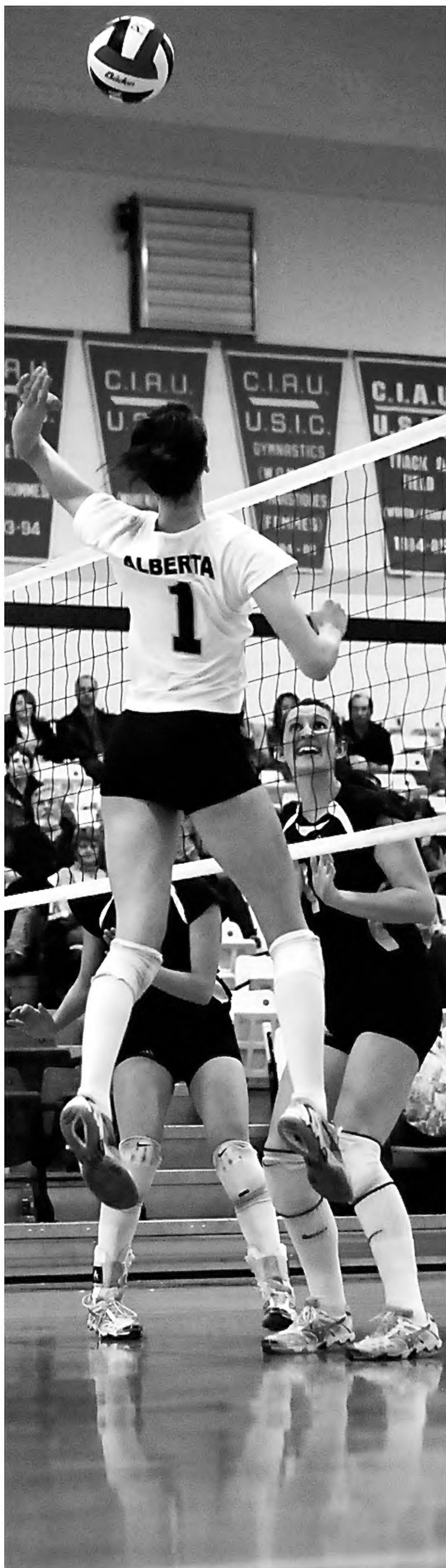


SPORTS

sports@gateway.ualberta.ca • thursday, 7 june, 2007



FILE PHOTO: ANDREW RURAK
REACH FOR THE TOP Pandas setter Daryll Roper goes for a hit last year. She and teammates Jocelyn Blair and Tiffany Dodds just made Team Canada.

U of A athletes on world stage

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

The U of A court has become a breeding ground for volleyball success: in addition to the CIS and Canada West banners lining the walls, 13 former and current U of A players have made the Canadian senior national teams this year.

Seven former Bears and one current one, along with five current and former Pandas, made it through Team Canada selection camps in May. Three members of this season's CIS champion Pandas team are on the roster: setters Tiffany Dodds and Daryll Roper and left side Jocelyn Blair. Graduated Pandas Larissa Cundy, another setter, and middle blocker Tasha Holness also made the team.

The Bears alumni who'll be representing Canada are setter Brock Davidiuk, right-side hitters Dallas Soonias and Alexandre Gaumont Casias, left sides Pascal Cardinal and Nicholas Cundy, and middle blockers Leo Caroll, and Murray Grapentine. Adam Kaminski, a current Bear, also made it.

Canada's women are in Winnipeg right now continuing their training, while the men's team is in the Dominican Republic competing in the Pan American Cup.

The players' varsity coaches, following their progress from Edmonton, are extremely proud, and aren't surprised at their athletes' successes. Pandas head coach Laurie Eisler was full of praise for the five of her players who made it through the selection camp—Dodds, Roper, and Blair in particular.

"They have emerged over the last couple of years as being the dominant players in their positions at the CIS level," she said. "Part of it is due to their commitment to training; whether that be physically, technically, tactically, mentally, they're very committed to the process of training.

"They have continued to grow each year. I would say with these three that we've seen a lot of growth and development as athletes. That's really attributable to their commitment, and never being satisfied, and always finding

other ways to become a better player."

Terry Danyluk, who has headed up the Bears volleyball program for 14 years and who himself has played for Canada, considers making the national team to be just the latest step in the already successful careers of some of his players.

"Murray Grapentine was part of our 1997 championship team, and Pascal Cardinal was also on that championship team. If you go through the list, they're all guys who have been in our program but they've also been CIS champions," he said. "Several of them have also participated in the national team program before and provincial team programs. They've done a lot of winning in their days."

"They've done a lot of winning in their days."

**TERRY DANYLUK,
BEARS VOLLEYBALL HEAD COACH**

Having this many Alberta athletes playing at a national level at the same time reflects well on the Pandas and Bears volleyball programs at the University, according to the coaches.

"It says a lot for the quality of the athletes we've been able to attract here," Danyluk said. "There are a lot of athletes who have made it to the national team program from our program in the past ten years. I'd like to think that we've helped those guys get to be as good as they are. All of those guys came here with that something special, and I think we were able to help them build that."

"I think it says that the U of A is a good option for athletes who aspire to that, who have the dream of making it to the national team," Eisler added.

But despite the high-profile success of these five, Eisler doesn't want people to think of that as the only goal of her program.

"I wouldn't consider us as producers of professional volleyball players," she said. "I think what we're really about is helping people achieve their potential in whatever they choose to do, whether that's to be a physiotherapist or a teacher or a volleyball player."

We try to equip our student-athletes with whatever it is that they need while they're here, and to create that foundation for them so they can excel in whatever it is that they set their mind to."

Eisler also thinks that the athletes are lucky to have current and former teammates with them now.

"It absolutely makes the transition easier," said Eisler. "You have someone who understands you and what your needs are as a player and a person, and someone to confide in off the court. There are huge challenges to playing at that level. Anytime you can have a buddy along with you, someone who gets you on and off the court, that's a huge advantage."

Friends by their sides or not, the rest of the summer will be hard work for the players. Just having made the national team doesn't guarantee playing time, and they'll be working to move up the depth charts and to grab spots on Team Canada's travel rosters. For the women, the big tournaments this summer are the Pan Am Cup in Mexico at the end of June, a tour of Japan in July, and the FISU (International University Sport Federation) Games in Thailand in August.

Similarly, highlights for the men's team include the Pan Am Cup, being contested this week, the FISU Games, the Pan Am Games, and America's Cup in Brazil.

There are also events in the fall and winter for both teams, including the qualifying tournaments for the Beijing Olympics. It's still uncertain whether Roper, Blair, and Dodds, who all just finished their third year, and Kaminski, who has a year of CIS eligibility left, will continue with Team Canada in the fall or return to the U of A.

"I'm just trying not to put any pressure on them," Eisler said. "I want them to strive there and enjoy what they're doing and get the most out of it without being worried about what's down the road. At the same time, I can tell you that it does send a shiver up my spine when I have to think about not having them [next season]."

WEARING THE MAPLE LEAF

Tiffany Dodds

She helped the Pandas win a national championship last season, and was named a CIS Tournament all-star and CIS Player of the Year. She competed for Canada at the 2005 FISU Games in Turkey. Her brother Mark is also on Team Canada.

Daryll Roper

She was a CIS Tournament All-Star last season, helping the Pandas win their most recent CIS title.

Jocelyn Blair

Also on last year's gold medal-winning team, she was a Canada West All-Star and CIS Tournament all-star in 2006/07.

Tasha Holness

A 2005/06 CIS second-team All-Star, she first made Team Canada in 2006.

Larissa Cundy

She was team MVP from 2002/03-2004/05, and 2004 CIS Tournament all-star. Her brother is Nicholas Cundy.

Brock Davidiuk

CIS Tournament MVP in 2004/05 and a CIS all-Canadian, he helped his team win the national championship that year.

Dallas Soonias

Was also a key player on the 2004/05 Bears championship team.

Leo Caroll

He was on the national championship team in 2005 and won CIS's Dale Iwanoczko student-athlete award that year, awarded to the player who most excels in academics, athletics, and community involvement.

Nicholas Cundy

Was CIS Player of the Year in 2004/05. He made Team Canada for the first time in 2005.

Alexandre Gaumont Casias

On the 2004/05 championship team, he left the Bears early to train with Team Canada.

Adam Kaminski

2003/04 CIS Rookie of the Year, he was also on the 2005 championship team.

Murray Grapentine

On Team Canada since 1997, he was on the 1997 national championship team and CIS Player of the Year for 1998/99.

Pascal Cardinal

CIS Rookie of the Year in 1998/99 and Player of the Year in 2002/03, he first played for Canada in 2001.

Pandas draw in local stars

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

This may be the first time that Scott Edwards has recruited for the Pandas basketball squad, but he's no stranger to Edmonton players. The Alberta head coach, who just wrapped up his first season with the Pandas, used his experience coaching the women's juvenile provincial team to snap up three local high school stars for his side.

Breanna Emmerzael and Josie Peacock, both from Archbishop O'Leary, and Jasper Place's Caitlin Stiksma all played under Edwards on the juvenile team last summer, and all impressed him enough that he was sure he wanted them on his team come graduation.

"The benefit of being the under-17 provincial coach is that I see the best kids in the country every summer," Edwards said.

"Having gotten to coach them, I know exactly what they're capable of, what their characters [are] like, how tough they are in big games, and how they respond to pressure and adversity," Edwards added. "It's really rare to know all of that before you bring them up."

His familiarity with the new recruits means Edwards is especially confident that they'll fit into the U of A program.

"They're all really talented kids, and I think more importantly to us, they're great student-athletes," he said. "They're going to be the next in a long line of great Pandas in this school and this community. I think the world of these three young ladies."

The incoming rookies already have impressive basketball resumes. In addition to their provincial team experience, Emmerzael and Peacock were part of Archbishop O'Leary's high school provincial championship team this year. Emmerzael, a 5'11" forward, and Stiksma, a post, were also named Edmonton Public League all-stars, and Stiksma was the league's MVP.



FILE PHOTO: WEIYANG LIU

NEW BLOOD Pandas like Emily Bolduc (white) will show new recruits the ropes.

"Caitlin is probably the most talented kid to come out of Edmonton in quite a while," Edwards said. "She has great instincts on both ends of the floor; she's a really good rebounder, and she has strong moves inside. We expect she'll be able to step in and contribute right away."

"Breanna's got great hands and rebounds well; she's an all-around great team player," he continued. "Josie is super-athletic and is a great defender on the ball."

That the three new Pandas are all from Edmonton is no coincidence: it was Edwards' goal to fill his team with the best players the city has to offer.

"I had a list of kids from across the

country, and evaluated them against our local kids, and to bring kids from out of town, they've got to show something pretty special when you've got such great local talent," he said. "Our recruiting starts at home, and if we've got local kids, it's important to make sure we keep them here."

An additional advantage to recruiting from area high schools is that Emmerzael, Peacock, and Stiksma have already begun summer training.

"That's another benefit of having great local players, that they can instantly start to bond with the girls who are already here, and it won't be such a shock to them in the fall," Edwards explained.

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Boras' MLB draft tactics are boring



PAUL OWEN

offering to help them negotiate a deal once they've been picked.

Unfortunately for the general managers sitting at the other side of the negotiating table, they really have no leverage. Boras begins proceedings by asking for a huge sum of money, and if teams don't wish to pay it, Boras' high school clients can just pack their bags and head off for four years of college ball before reentering the draft.

This results in situations like that of Luke Hochevar, whom the Los Angeles Dodgers drafted in both 2002 (39th round) and 2005 (40th overall). He signed neither time, and they watched him go first overall to Kansas City in last summer's draft.

And these holdouts aren't even discriminatory; this isn't Steve Francis crying at the NBA draft because he didn't want to play in Vancouver. Boras' guys will make choices like turning down millions to play in LA to make slightly more millions in a place like Kansas City, where the weather isn't perfect every single day and the groupies don't wax as thoroughly. It isn't even a case of a first-rounder wanting to get paid: a talented Boras client will demand millions regardless of draft position.

Boras' bargaining strategy makes it impossible for many teams to sign his players. The Toronto Blue Jays regularly spend under \$4 million total in signing bonuses for all their picks in a 50-round

draft in any given year; Hochevar received a \$3.5 million bonus on his contract last season. Boras' outrageous demands have lead Jays GM JP Ricciardi to declare that he wouldn't draft a Boras client with either of his two first round picks this year. And the Jays aren't alone in their inability to pay for Boras' advisees: Jonathan Mayo's latest mock draft on MLB.com has Weiters dropping all the way to the San Francisco Giants at the tenth pick. This comes despite the fact that he's probably one of the four best players in the draft, and will likely zip through the minor league system—a plus for teams that can't afford to wait five years for a star.

Basically, Scott Boras keeps the best players from going to the worst teams, and instead facilitates a system that allows the Yankees, Red Sox and other "haves" to snatch up some of the best baseball prospects out there. Sure, the strategy works great for Boras and his clients, who almost always end up getting paid, but what about those teams who lose their first-round pick because Boras wanted him to be paid more than most of the guys on the big-league roster? These clubs are held hostage by the thought that they could draft a guy second overall and have him wind up going to another team. So they shell out their millions and pray that the players turn out, while Boras takes his seven per cent, chucks it into his money silo and dives in for a swim, Scrooge McDuck-style.

MAN VS NATURE by Conal Pierse



RESERVOIR KOOPAS by Mike Kendrick



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PERSONALS

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AVALANCHE OF PANCAKES

"Okay, so, explain again why we have to put the zucchini into mounds, and everything else we can just plant in holes?" Motto asked as he transplanted a poor, half-dead strawberry plant into the garden plot. Despite packing the pathetic plant with rich topsoil, he watched as it withered and fell.

"You need to protect it from threats," Kendrick answered simply.

"Threats? To zucchini?"

"Oh yeah. Zucchini are pretty fragile, and the mound protects them from things like bugs, heat, prayer in public schools—and of course, terrorism."

"Yeah. Motto. Zucchini without mounds is just another example of your outdated mindset. We're living in a post-5/23 climate," added Lilwall.

"5/23?"

"You know. 23 May, 2001, when a concentrated effort by vegetable fundamentalists destroyed most of the country's summer squash infrastructure. The whole country was in disarray. People were afraid to go out into their gardens! The peat moss industry almost went into bankruptcy! I can't believe you don't remember it! The Department of Aggregate Culture bumped the Gardening Threat Level up to 'Budding.'"

Motto digested this. "But I don't get it. Why would they attack the zucchini?"

"Don't you get it, man?" Kendrick replied. "They hate our quiche."



MIKE OTTO

THE GATEWAY

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FIGHTING BACK Rundle Park hosted the MS SuperCities Walk to tackle Multiple Sclerosis. See feature page 7.

Edmonton Student Alliance in the works

RYAN HEISE
Deputy News Editor

The plight of students' issues often seems to fall on deaf ears, but in a year when Edmontonians will be voting in both municipal and provincial elections, student government executives from postsecondary institutions across the city are hoping their pooled resources will be able to instigate positive change.

Over the past few weeks, the University of Alberta Students' Union and Graduate Students' Association, the NAIT Students' Association, and the Grant MacEwan Students' Association have been in talks to form a new collective known as the Edmonton Student Alliance (ESA). This organization would lobby on municipal issues affecting students from all three institutions.

As SU President Michael Janz explained, the ESA has yet to be formally created, but initial response to the idea has been positive from all parties.

"We've made the offers to cooperate, so we're seeing who would be interested in participating," he said. "The feedback around the table was very good, and all of us expressed that we do have a lot of common ground, especially with it being a municipal and provincial election year."

NAITSA President Kerri Wyspinski agreed with Janz, citing that combining the voices of the four organizations was "a great opportunity."

"All of us have a lot of common issues; there's just no point in fighting for them on our own when we can work together," she said.

In a memorandum of understanding that the U of A SU sent out to the other three student government bodies, the issue of accessible and affordable housing was clearly a major rallying point for the potential ESA. With Edmonton vacancy rates predicted to dip below one per cent in 2008, the executive presidents of each organization stressed the importance of this issue.

"I really like the idea and am very much in favour of student groups being able to work together on issues," GSA President Julie Charchun stated. "Particularly housing right now, which is a major issue for all students."

"I can't emphasize enough how upset grad students are by the housing situation."

Janz also noted that, like the U-Pass, the housing crisis is something that directly binds Edmonton universities and colleges together.

"There are U of A students living in the Grant MacEwan residence, and it just shows that, though we're different institutions, we still have a lot of

interconnectedness," he said.

If the ESA is formed, it would mark the second major lobby group that the SU would currently be involved with, alongside the Council of Alberta University Students (CAUS). But while CAUS advocates primarily at the provincial level and the ESA would focus on municipal issues, there remains for U of A students a lack of formal federal advocacy on their behalf. The U of A SU hasn't been part of a federal lobby group since 2003.

However, Janz was quick to point out that PSE is the responsibility of the provincial government, and added that the subsequent issues surrounding it are more often than not localized.

"The feedback around the table was very good and all of us expressed that we do have a lot of common ground, especially with it being a municipal and provincial election year."

**MICHAEL JANZ,
SU PRESIDENT**

"There's a lot more opportunity right now for us to focus our efforts [municipally and provincially]," he explained, adding that Edmonton schools have lobbied federally through efforts put forth by CAUS despite not being affiliated with any official federal advocacy group.

The ESA, if formed, would be a consensus-based organization, and none of the groups that are tentatively involved seemed worried that any one school would dominate it.

"The purview of the ESA is really to focus on the 80 per cent of issues we agree upon," Janz explained. "There's no way we're going to make one of the associations send out a message that's contradictory to their own agenda."

Charchun added some of these Edmonton-based student associations already have had experience working together, and that it's possible for them to achieve goals collectively.

"We worked really well with the SU on the U-Pass last year," Charchun said. "I think we're going to be able to work together [on the ESA] in some capacity."

As of press time, Grant MacEwan Students' Association President Justin Benko could not be reached for comment.

Public Interest Alberta turns three

SCOTT FENWICK
News Writer

Public Interest Alberta (PIA) is celebrating its third birthday this June as it gears up to become a player in provincial politics—not an easy feat for a group that criticizes the Alberta government.

As an advocacy organization, PIA is running six campaigns that promote social issues in Alberta. Graham Thomson, the *Edmonton Journal's* Legislature columnist, said he didn't expect Alberta's political climate to support PIA for this long.

"This is a province that doesn't have a rich culture in questioning authority. For [PIA], it's been a long uphill battle to actually do much," he said. "They should be congratulated for pushing so hard for so long, because it must be frustrating for them."

Larry Booij, PIA's President, acknowledged that the group has had little effect on government policy, but says

PIA's influence in Alberta is larger than he predicted.

"This is a province that doesn't have a rich culture in questioning authority. For [PIA], it's been a long uphill battle to actually do much."

**GRAHAM THOMSON,
EDMONTON JOURNAL COLUMNIST**

"I think where we're doing better is in affecting the public consciousness," Booij explained. "I think in childcare, postsecondary education, K-12 education, seniors [issues], and [democratic reform], we've had a substantial effect in how the public views the debate."

University of Alberta political science

professor Steve Patten noted PIA has been able to set the political agenda with Albertans.

"When they release a report, not only does it have thoughtful policy analysis, but it also represents what a lot of ordinary Albertans are saying on the issue," Patten added. "PIA has been really effective in organizing campaigns they want the public to focus on."

PIA Executive Director Bill Moore-Kilgannon credits the group's task-force model for its effectiveness. A PIA task force will hold open forums around the province so they can hear the public's thoughts on what the group was studying.

"[The task forces] become our key observers. They become the way in which the organization ties into what's really going on in people's lives."

In PIA's three-year history, Moore-Kilgannon considers the group's work in its postsecondary campaign a notable achievement.

PLEASE SEE PIA B-DAY • PAGE 4

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Cadence Revival

Edmonton rap's fortunate son, Cadence Weapon, brings the party back on his new album.

A&E, PAGE 8



Green, gold, red, white

Thirteen past and present Bears and Pandas have made the Canadian volleyball national team.

SPORTS, PAGE 10

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“ BearTracks sucks, let's face it.

BOBBY SAMUEL

VP Academic

on the merits of the University's online registration system

in supporting student groups, a fact that he couldn't readily explain but said may be a result of the severe budget cuts that took place in the mid-'90s.

Jones said he wasn't willing to ask for a specific amount of money for a DFU to support the fund, instead leaving it in the hands of Council to decide. However, he was willing to offer a suggestion.

"I think it makes some sense to be comparable to the legacy fund—that's about \$2.60 per student per term."

BEARSCAT BALANCES ON BRINK

BearScat creator and U of A computing science graduate Steve Kirkham presented to Council in an effort to receive financial support from the SU for the popular online registration system.

Kirkham's presentation showed how much traffic his four-year-old scheduling and registration alternative to BearTracks receives from the student body. The site had 10 million hits this past academic year, up from 3 million in 2003/04. It also served approximately 15 000 unique users during the winter 2007 semester.

However, increased usage, a series of hardware setbacks, and BearTracks' own impending upgrade have raised doubts concerning BearScat's sustainability.

Kirkham explained that without funding for the necessary upgrades, BearScat

would become almost completely unusable come September—a situation he regarded as a huge disadvantage to students.

"I think it's an important service," Kirkham said. "[And] I'm pretty sure students think it's an important service, seeing as how more and more of them are continuing to use it."

He urged Council to provide the necessary funding for BearScat by 31 August, whether it be through a direct investment in the program or the establishment of a DFU.

However, Vice-President (Academic) Bobby Samuel explained that while the SU believes BearScat is a very important service for students, because undergraduate registration isn't in the purview of Students' Council, it will only advocate to the University to support the system.

Kirkham isn't overly confident this course of action will provide the necessary help.

"The Students' Union has been trying to get funding [for BearTracks] from the University for the last four years," he argued. "I don't see what's going to change over the next three months."

With the sustainability of BearScat hinging on developments made over the summer months, Kirkham said he didn't want to make any threats regarding

the future of the system. However, he did reiterate that without proper funding, students would be unable to get the benefits of what he argues is a simpler, more efficient registration system come September.

"At the end of the day, it saves stress and time," Kirkham explained. "If you're a new student at this University and have to click through the horrendously designed course listings on BearTracks, write down with a pen and paper on that bloody sheet they hand out, and then having to type in those five-digit course numbers—and even trying to figure out if there's an enrollment section in a lab and what five-digit number you need to type in first—you're going through a huge amount of time and stress and worry to try and do it when BearScat lets you do it with the click of a button."

QUESTION PERIOD

Speaker Amanda Henry was asked about how councillor retreat went the weekend prior to the meeting. Henry explained that discussions regarding DFUs, political policies, the history of the SU, a crash course in Robert's Rules of Order, and the holding of a mock Council meeting all took place. Henry congratulated those councillors that attended for now officially being a "hacks."

STREETERS

CBC News has recently created a group on Facebook to compile wishes for Canada's 140 birthday.

Of the current top three wishes—"Abolish Abortion in Canada," "For a spiritual revival in our nation" and "I wish that Canada would remain pro-choice"—which would you choose?

Chris Proulx
Engineering IILacey Labby
Anthropology
AlumnaPaul Barrette
Grad Studies IIHaley Carlson
Chemistry
Alumna

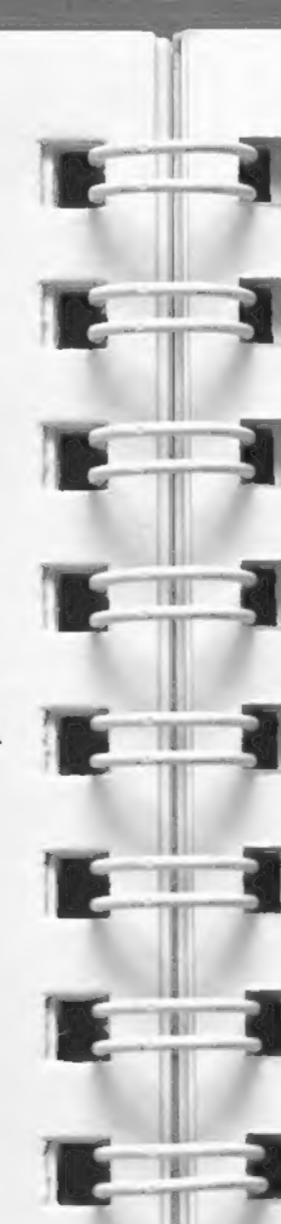
Probably "make abortion illegal." I'm Catholic myself, and I don't believe in the thing. I don't think killing babies is very good.

Pro-choice. First things first: I don't think abortions should ever be illegal. I think that women have rights. It brings up all those questions about women being raped, [or] having to raise a child when [it doesn't] have a father—I don't think that the options should be removed.

I would choose keeping Canada pro-choice. I think it's a tricky issue; I think the choice should only be allowed under certain conditions, but [I] choose that one because I just don't like the other two as much. Making Canada more spiritual, well that's kind of a shady goal, and making [abortion] illegal, I don't like that idea.

Probably number three because the other two are a little more closed-minded. I guess a spiritual revolution isn't so horrid, but people can take their own paths if they want to be spiritual. Whereas, I think pro-choice is do what you want; it's not right; it's not wrong; it's just your choice. And the first one ... that's completely not my political stance.

Compiled and photographed by Natalie Climenhaga and Ryan Heise

derail your study plans
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U of A profs tune in to iLectures

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

Back when most current University of Alberta students were getting their first Hotmail accounts, Computing Science professor Duane Szafron was already experimenting with technology-based learning.

In 1999, Szafron piloted video recordings of all his lectures, but at the time found it problematic.

"Technologically, it just wasn't there. It was too hard to do the distribution," he explained. "Just watching ten seconds of video would be more memory than people had on their computers."

However, last fall Szafron was able to revisit his idea of archiving lectures—this time on iPods. He used an iPod to record all his lectures digitally. These would then be converted to MP3 format by a lab coordinator immediately after class ended, allowing students to access them on the web within an hour of the lecture being done.

According to Szafron, both an instruction support survey and his own informal class survey showed that response from students has been positive.

"The feedback from the survey is that there's a group of students that really find it helpful."

Computing Science student Slobodan Pejic, who was in Szafron's class, said that he found the podcasts to be particularly useful when it came time to review.

"I found it pretty helpful for studying at year-end for finals," Pejic said. "[It made it] much easier to remember what I was thinking way back when."

"I think a lot of people were using [the podcasts]," he added. "I know definitely all the people I talked to were using [them] at least for review."

Szafron also dismissed concerns that digitalizing lectures would encourage students not to show up for class, noting the same argument has been made about putting PowerPoint slides online. He stressed that there will always be an added benefit for being present in class, and noted that this could be an extra incentive for professors to deliver more in class.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: MIKE KENDRICK

JERK IT OUT Now you can learn while listening to the Caesars on your iPod.

"I think it makes it harder for people who give fairly boring lectures. I think more students won't show up for those," he said. "And I guess my attitude [as a professor] is, if you can't deliver anything extra than what you would provide online or whatever, then what's the difference if people don't show up for class? Is that really bad if people don't show up?"

It seems Szafron's initiatives are catching on. Associate Computing Science Professor Paul Lu said he was approached by his department during the Winter 2007 term to see if he would be willing to have his CMPUT 201 lectures podcasted. He noted that he was surprised by the number of students who made use of the digitalized lectures.

"Just having a casual look over the department survey, it seemed like a significant portion of the class ... made substantial use of the podcasts," Lu said. "Even though not necessarily every student was using it, it was a significant subset that were."

Students' Union Vice-President (Academic) Bobby Samuel explained that under the University's 2007-11 Academic Plan, *Dare to Deliver*, there is a teaching and learning enhancement fund and a special projects initiative for piloted projects such as this.

He also noted that the idea of podcasting lectures may improve students' learning.

"I think digitalizing lectures is a great way for enhancing student engagement," Samuel said. "If used responsibly, it can be a great way to offer students another avenue to access their learning material."

However, Samuel stressed that it's important to maintain a central location where professors can lecture and teach.

"Digitalized lectures should not be used as a substitute for lectures," he said.

While putting audio files of lectures online isn't currently in high use across campus, Szafron suspects that, as technology makes the process easier and easier, other departments will end up making use of podcasts.

"Ten years ago, if I looked on the Internet, there were very few courses where the notes were online, and now if you look across campus, it's not just in science—it's in everything where the notes are online. And I really think that this is a very close analogue to that."

"Who knows whether this is going to be a long-term sort of phenomenon?" Lu added. "But I think it's important that everybody try out new ideas and see whether or not they work."



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Bullies aren't intimidating to all kids

University of Alberta Educational Psychology researcher Shelagh Dunn wants to know why some kids choose to stand up to bullies while others do not

RYAN HEISE
Deputy News Editor

Altruistic youths that risk black eyes and bloody noses by standing up to bullies may be a rare find, but one University of Alberta researcher is searching them out to pick their brains and get their views on schoolyard violence.

Shelagh Dunn, a PhD candidate in Educational Psychology, is undertaking a study to look at what sets junior-high students who intervene in bullying apart from their picked-on peers.

"[I'm] interested in their experiences of how they were able to make that choice, what happened after, how they feel about the whole situation and whether they would do it again," Dunn explained.

Dunn's research is a qualitative study that involves interviewing students who have made the choice to get involved in bullying situations to try to stop it.

While research has been done on bullying in the past, it has been primarily focused on what makes

bullies do what they do as well as the affect on victims. Dunn's differs in that she is paying less attention to the school environment and trying to pinpoint the qualities of students that desire to put a stop to bullying.

"They don't just push [bullying] to the side; they take it very seriously, and that means that they're definitely having strong feelings about it."

**SHELAGH DUNN,
EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY
PHD CANDIDATE**

"What I'm really interested in are those students that are witnessing [bullying] and the impact on them and the power that they have to be able to do something about it."

While Dunn said she's still looking for a few more participants before compiling and finalizing her research, the study's initial results have revealed some common characteristics among youths that intervene in bullying.

"I'm finding that these students are really actively engaged with the issue," Dunn said. "They don't just push [bullying] to the side; they take it very seriously, and that means that they're definitely having strong feelings about it."

She continued by stating that the students seem to show more empathy, feel like they have a sense of power, and are less influenced by what their peers think.

When concluded, Dunn hopes her research will be used to pass along the qualities that these students exemplify in an effort to greatly reduce bullying.

"I'm hoping that in some way I can write this up in some way that junior-high students will read it."

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Ontario students arrested in connection with counterfeit ring

University diplomas, visas, marriage certificates among documents seized

KATERINA TOPOL
The Excalibur

TORONTO (CUP)—York Regional Police recently arrested five students who alleged to be part of a massive counterfeit document ring.

On 12 April, police confiscated counterfeit equipment and hundreds of fraudulent documents from a home in Markham, ON. Police seized passports, marriage certificates, student visas, postsecondary diplomas and degrees from several Ontario institutions.

The group has produced “hundreds if not thousands” of counterfeit documents, according to York Region Police Superintendent Wayne Kalinski.

A flyer discovered at the crime scene advertised student visas for \$1500, education qualification documents signed by a notary public for \$1000, and application papers offering direct entry into specialized programs for \$3000.

According to Detective Fred Kerr, the untrained eye would not be able to tell the difference between the fraudulent documents and the legitimate ones.

“There is a criminal market for these types of fraudulent documents,” York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge said.

York University, one of the postsecondary institutions whose documents were forged, is concerned that document fraud could negatively affect the reputation of postsecondary institutions.

“Honouring of degrees is at [the] heart of what we do, and this incident has the potential for damaging our reputation,” Keith Marnoch, a spokesperson for York University, said. “There were many institutions involved, and York is unfortunately a part of it, and preventing this from happening again is something we continually work on.”

“Honouring of degrees is at [the] heart of what we do and this incident has the potential for damaging our reputation.”

KEITH MARNOCH,
YORK UNIVERSITY

“We do have measures to protect these kinds of documents, and we update them regularly. But computer technology is getting more sophisticated, making it more difficult for us to protect valuable documentation,” he added.

“What people should know is that if anyone is in the possession of these papers, and they know about it, it is a violation of the criminal law,” Marnoch stressed.

As the ability for fraud artists to produce high-quality replicas of official documents goes up, so too does the private-market demand to verify the qualifications of prospective

employees.

Rendell So, a recruiter for the Employment Solution employment agency, said that his firm will verify the qualifications of some prospective employees as a safeguard against fraudulent degrees, but the initiative is far from being a regular part of his company's services.

“It depends on the client. Some ask for it, some don't,” he said. “Normally, you could tell by the person's background if they have been working in the industry for 'x' amount of years. We would pay more attention if it is a new grad, but in most cases we don't.”

For Ontario postsecondary institutions who have been targeted, protecting their reputation means sharing their list of graduates with anyone who asks.

“We know who has graduated from York, and we openly share this information with whoever wants to know,” Marnoch said.

Students are also concerned that their work will be rendered less meaningful with the proliferation of fake diplomas.

“I, like all of us, have paid towards my degree,” said Carolina Espinosa, a psychology student at York. “But it's not just about the money; it's also about all the work I have put in throughout the years. I go to school so I can have a privilege over someone who did not when looking for a job. Knowing that there are people out there who are getting the job I want with a false degree is very unfair.”

PIA wishes for increased advocacy

PIA B-DAY • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

For example, in fall 2005, following a promise made by former Premier Ralph Klein that Alberta would have the most affordable tuition in Canada, Dave Hancock, then Alberta's Advanced Education Minister, announced a tuition increase for the 2004-2005 academic year.

Because PIA representatives were present at this announcement, they reminded reporters about Klein's promise. Klein, when told of the discrepancy, contradicted Hancock, ultimately meaning no tuition increase for the year.

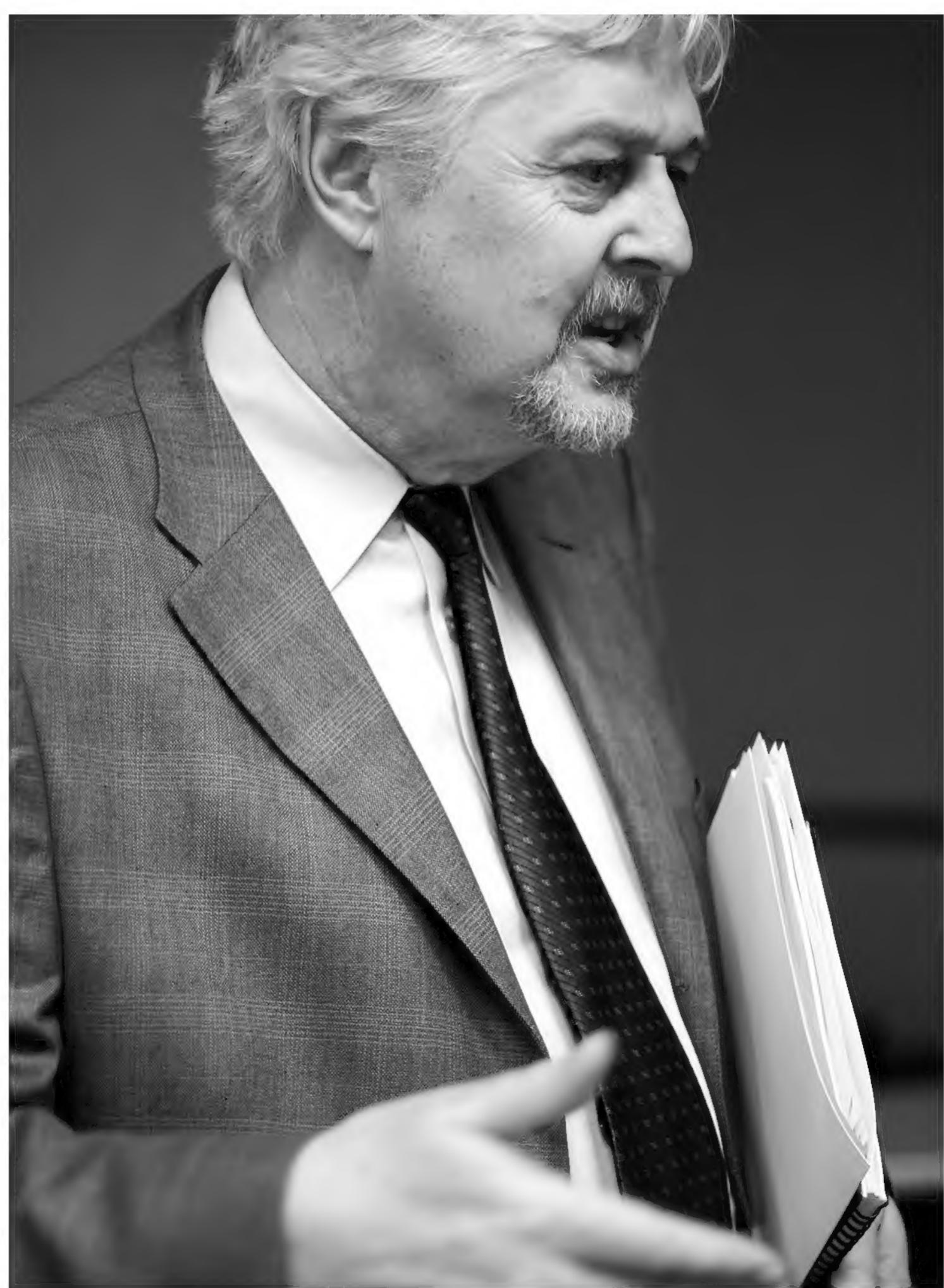
Despite PIA's political activity, Booij, who co-founded PIA as President of the Alberta Teachers' Association in 2004, maintains the group is non-partisan, adding that many of their member organizations would not join if it was.

“The fact you're non-partisan doesn't mean you're not political. You can be very political and be engaged in political issues, but not partisan,” Booij said.

Moore-Kilgannon said their newest campaign, which focuses on the environmental impacts of the oilsands, will begin in July. One key part of their campaign surrounds the Alberta government's plan to export bitumen to the US for processing.

Bitumen is the material extracted from the oilsands that gets refined into crude oil. Moore-Kilgannon said 18 000 Albertan jobs could be lost due to the planned exports.

“Our main role is to try and get more people to be aware of the public policy issue being decided,” he said,



KIM SMITH

ALL ABOUT ACTION Larry Booij says Public Interest Alberta will keep growing.

acknowledging it will be difficult to change the government's decision.

However, Moore-Kilgannon stated PIA's future looks positive.

“We're just three years old, in the

beginning steps of doing this work, and I think people are very impressed with the level of activity and the ability of us to have influence in this process.”

CBC should wish for better statistics

TO CELEBRATE CANADA'S 140TH BIRTHDAY, CBC News has decided to use the popular social networking site Facebook to gauge what Canadians want for their country's future. And according to their group, the Great Canadian Wish List, abolishing abortion is currently Canada's number-one priority.

On the poll's Facebook group page, CBC explains that the top wishes will be based on the number of supporters who join a particular wish's group, and will later be featured in a Canada Day special.

Maybe the CBC figured maple leafs, fireworks, and parades were going to run away with it; either way it's hard to believe that they honestly plan on coming out and announcing the "winners" of an illegitimate opinion poll run through a Facebook group. Especially given that for the past few days, the top wishes by the membership have been "Abolish Abortion in Canada," followed by a wish group calling for "a spiritual revival in our nation." These results hold absolutely no significance whatsoever.

Any self-respecting CBC journalist should view the creation of this entire project as an enormous embarrassment. If you read through the discussion threads, it becomes evident that this project is being exploited by large church groups who've organized themselves across the country.

Now, in response to this overwhelming "support," an "I wish that Canada would remain pro-choice" wish group is in third place—not because its members view this as the most important wish for Canada's future, but because they don't want the anti-abortion group's ideology to win.

I'm not criticizing the concept of using Facebook to reach the youth demographic—in fact, it hurts me to admit that Facebook has probably become the single most efficient way to reach high-school and university-aged Canadians. But when did Facebook become a credible journalistic source?

It seems like CBC just figured getting the kids' ideas off of the Intertubes would be a hype idea. But as far as I'm concerned, polling people via a social network is less statistically credible than citing facts found on Wikipedia for an essay. I thought *MacLean's* magazine was guilty of questionable statistical practices with their infamous university rankings issue, but this latest project takes the 140th-birthday cake.

The CBC could have paid some poor intern \$8 per hour to talk to random people on the streets, and it would've been a more credible way to compose a Canadian wish list—at least then there would be a way to know if the people who are being polled were even Canadian. As it stands, there's currently nothing preventing non-Canadians from voting in this survey.

When you look at most public opinion polls, there has to be a margin of error listed and some explanation of where the source data came from. But with this, there's no way of knowing who these people are.

It used to be that Facebook was a social network reserved exclusively for postsecondary students, but now it's open to anyone and everyone over the age of 13. All you need is an email to sign up for Facebook—individuals can even hold multiple accounts. And while there's no way of reading through the list of names of a group's members, I wouldn't be surprised if many of those pro-lifers hail from bible-belt USA.

The majority of young Canadians probably don't want abortions made illegal, but this statistically invalid "source" would suggest otherwise. Instead, a polling idea of what could've been an interesting glance at what Canadians want has ended up becoming a complete joke.

"Normally when you make a wish, you keep it secret. This Canada Day, CBC wants you to shout it out," the media organization says on their Frequently Asked Questions page. But hasn't anyone told the CBC that if you say a birthday wish out loud it doesn't come true?

At least now I won't be surprised if Ben Mulroney comes out on Canada Day with a Facebook-inspired report profiling Canadians who want to save the country's fetuses.

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor



JASKARANSINGH

LETTERS FROM THE ARCHIVES

Being a donkey doesn't excuse being a jackass

I was kicked by a donkey in the Engineering building. Since when has the University allowed asses to become Engineers? If the admissions standards are lowered much further, it will not be too long before jackasses will be getting plumber's certificates.

AWFUL SORE
7 January, 1954

Eat too much, Brutus?

I noticed in your last issue a picture and story on the Kappa Sigma mascot, Brutus, who died following the cross-country race. I think this is appalling.

I can imagine what the dog's diet consisted of since he was living in a fraternity house. What those boys don't realize is that dogs, like humans, require vitamins and minerals to maintain their health.

Your story mentioned that the SPCA might investigate this. I sincerely hope that they do and that the administration will forbid these social organizations from having pets again.

It should be obvious that these animals are mistreated, and treatment of this sort will only result in early death for the animal.

AL FRANKLIN
20 October, 1961

The lighter side of racism

I wish to comment on the editorial in Friday's *Gateway* regarding "A brand of humour."

While essentially agreeing with the editor in that all racial "jokes" are in very poor taste, may I offer a few suggestions as to why jokes of this nature are being circulated throughout the city.

I do not believe that native-born Edmontonians (and Canadians for that matter) particularly want to see Canada turned into a Little Ukraine, Little Poland, or Little America.

I don't deny the fact that all immigrants are entitled to a new life in Canada, but when one can travel three blocks downtown and not hear a word of English spoken save his own senseless muttering, one can't help wondering if they're out to get us.

Through the settling haze of garlic, I can just barely make out a country called Canada where the cereal boxes are printed in Ukrainian, and then in English.

I believe that the few remaining nationalists of this country are somewhat disturbed to see a New World emerging in which not only [is] English not known, but [neither are] these creatures called Canadians.

I don't believe that it's expecting too much to want to hear the language of one's own country spoken, however haltingly, wherever one goes.

I say let's keep the cultures confined to the Ukrainian Centres, Polish Halls, and Scandinavian Centres.

PETE PORTLOCK
19 December, 1965

Blowing white smoke at Student Union elections

As the University student elections are coming back I feel a need to knock the bureaucratic system of the University, I hereby announce my candidacy for the Pope of the University of Alberta.

I feel [that] I'm qualified for this position because of the following reasons:

- 1) I always have felt that I've been infallible
- 2) I'm a Protestant
- 3) I'll make Peter Laugheed a saint if he cuts off Ontario oil supplies

I'll become a hard-line pope and represent the interests of the University population.

I urge the student body to write my name on the President's ballot, and cross out the word President and write in pope.

CHARLES CATT
6 February, 1975

Saskatchewan's potash to fund zeppelin army

While I was visiting my hometown of Greenfield, SK, on the weekend, I was talking to Bert in the Link Hardware store, and he had a very interesting idea as to why Alan Blakeney took over the potash mines in that province.

It seems that the money the province obtains from the sale of potash will go towards the purchase of New Yorkers—specifically, 2 million residents of Manhattan and the Bronx.

The money New York receives from this sale will go towards the

purchase of 300 dirigibles, which will be floated over Washington, flashing obscene language over the White House.

Saskatchewan will reap great benefits from their end of the deal in that they'll have more people than Alberta, and will get over their severe inferiority complex.

Future plans also call for the purchase of 15 Rocky Mountains, three blocks of downtown Calgary, and an acre of tar sand. This will make Saskatchewan so closely resemble Alberta that no one will be able to tell the difference, and they'll become the new blue-eyed sheiks of Canada.

ALICE CHALMERS
18 November, 1975

Letters from the Archives is a semi-regular feature where the *Gateway* runs historical letters that we feel are of particular importance—or are just really hilarious.

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building or e-mailed to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The *Gateway* reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous or otherwise hateful in nature. The *Gateway* also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study and student identification number to be considered for publication.



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Canada dropping ball, not aid

JESSICA WAREN



On 7 July, 2005, the leaders of the world's eight richest nations gathered in Gleneagles, Scotland and reached an historic agreement to significantly reduce world poverty by the year 2015.

These Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were brought about in part due to the promise of each nation to dedicate 0.7 per cent of their respective Gross National Incomes (GNIs) to poverty alleviation in the form of aid. In 2005-2006, Canada dedicated a mere 0.33 per cent of its GNI to foreign aid—short of the 0.51 per cent that would put us on track to realizing our commitments.

Canada has one of the most robust economies in the G8; however, we still aren't on track to fulfilling our promises to the rest of the world.

While all of Canada's major political parties have pledged to reach the 0.7 per cent target in aid by 2015, the Canadian government has still refused to create a valid timeline for reaching its stated goals.

Thus far, individual Canadians have sent emails numbering in the tens of thousands to the Prime Minister's office demanding that the government increase its contributions to poor

countries—yet even the demands of Canadian citizens are going unheeded by our political leaders.

It's becoming redundant to hear government officials deriding monetary aid to developing countries as useless because of the "corruption" of the receiving governments.

Developing countries are receiving around \$50 billion per year in aid from the West, but are simultaneously losing \$100 billion dollars a year due to unfair trade laws. But the fact that for every dollar in Canadian aid given, Canada itself receives two dollars back indicates that there is as much government corruption at home as there is abroad.

This supports the idea that whatever corruption exists in the Southern hemisphere, it's being supported by the North's unwillingness to work with developing countries by forgiving their debts and establishing more balanced international trade laws.

Since the modification of trade rules is a slow process, the best short-term solution would be the forgiving of debts and the realization of the 0.7 per cent promise in aid.

The MDGs aren't simply best-case scenario results, they're the proven result of more aid given to developing countries. Zambia, for instance, has been able to begin providing free health care to people in rural areas as a result of the cancellation of its debt and aid increases.

Real money means real solutions to developing countries, yet the Canadian government continues to lag behind other G8 nations in its commitment to

improving the quality of life of people living in the nations that supply us with our cheap coffee, bananas, clothing, and other products essential to the North American way of life.

Canada's continuing refusal to live up to its aid promises proves three things. First, it shows that the Canadian government doesn't consider its obligations to developing countries to be worthy of respect.

Second, it demonstrates that Canada is willing to use developing countries to its own advantage by both using their plight as a way of gaining temporary international credibility at meetings like the G8 summit, and by profiting from willfully unfair trade laws.

Third, it proves that the Canadian government, simply put, thinks less of the lives of people living in the developing world than it does the lives of those living in the West—a curious conclusion given Canada's love of painting itself as the world's peace-keeper and harbinger of human rights to all.

The realization of these MDGs would see a world where antiretrovirals are provided to all AIDS sufferers, primary education is a right rather than a privilege, and adequate housing and food are available for all.

The Canadian government and people owe developing countries a lot more than debt cancellation and aid money. Trade laws are the root of the problem, but for now, money is the best short-term answer to the great injustices occurring daily in the name of Western development and the continuance of our way of life.

Time to cut out the constitutional malarky

JACALYN AMBLER



I don't happen to remember what date Victoria Day was held on this year, but I do know that it was a Monday. Also, as it's one of Canada's nine annual statutory holidays, I'm pretty sure I spent a lot of it in bed.

Apparently, I'm not alone. In a recent *Canada Speaks* poll conducted by Ipsos-Reid, nearly half of all Canadians said that the best way to spend the May Long Weekend is "at home relaxing," and nearly 80 per cent said that the day was a time for relaxation rather than one to honour the holiday's namesake.

This situation is symbolic of Canada's larger relationship with the monarchy—a rapport that should long ago have been called into question.

This relationship was characterized by the Westminster Statute of 1931, which granted the "True North" legislative status equal to that of the United Kingdom, along with all of the other Commonwealth territories.

But unlike our neighbours to the south, we haven't yet managed to emerge from the shadow of the antiquated empire. Instead, we have opted for a system of "constitutional monarchy," which, as far as I've been able to discern, involves no tangible benefit whatsoever.

Rather, it consists of a great deal of ceremonial back-patting, most of which revolves around a theme of historical continuity. Our type of government is apparently needed to serve as a constant reminder that we haven't forgotten our roots.

In this way, we've opted for a "sort-of, but not really" independence—much like the child who moves away to the big city but keeps a room in her parents basement just in case.

Despite contrary sentiments, Canada no longer really has a significant cultural or political exchange with Britain—at least not compared to the relationship that we have with the US. The real consequence of our constitutional limbo is therefore not interference from the Crown, but merely the creation of several symbolic offices—those of the Governor General, and the provincial Lieutenant Governors—each of whom acts as a representative of the monarchy in Canada.

Since the Queen is apparently unconcerned with our own affairs—she's not even publicly vociferous when it comes to those of her own country—her representatives busy themselves with many lovely yet purely symbolic tasks such as the giving of royal assent and the reading of the Throne Speech.

This absence of any real contribution to the Canadian political process has long raised the eyebrows of those who see the Governor General as a bearer of an expired stamp of approval, and this criticism would be valid even if these offices were volunteer positions, good for the resumé and perhaps the self-esteem, but of small financial stature. They're, however, salaried roles that include the freedom to dispense with millions of taxpayer dollars, seldom for any foreseeable reason.

In 2003, the budget of the Governor General actually increased to \$41 million—and yet, Michaëlle Jean's official website is unable to provide any example of worthwhile programs that have been supported with this money.

The usual justification for this governmental indulgence is typically the same one used for the title: the

number-one reason that Canadians are in favour of keeping the monarchy behind the constitution is that it supports and preserves "tradition."

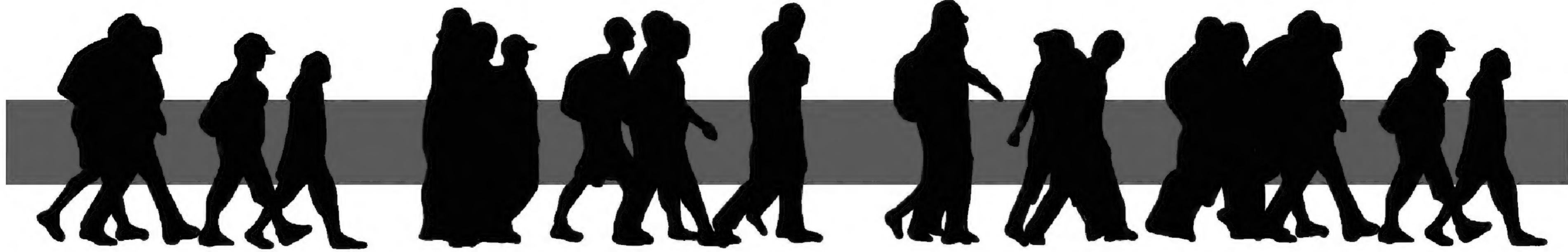
Others argue that it gives us a sense of cultural recognition—the official website even states one of the office's main functions as "Representing Canadians and promoting our sovereignty."

These are all important goals. So important, in fact, that one might wonder why we're not actually investing this money in programs that might achieve them. It's important to keep sight of our past, but in keeping our gaze so firmly fixed on what represents the gilded hallways and shiny crowns of the old world in hopes that it will give us some sort of vicarious cultural glow, we're shooting our cultural future in the foot.

As we creep up on the second decade of a new century, we find ourselves faced with real problems—those relating to the environment, global and national health concerns, energy, and infrastructure development. Spending our tax money in pursuit of solutions for them holds the potential to foster a true sense of our national pride.

Advocates of the monarchy may argue that cultural development and unification in the coming decades will be a concern just as great as any of these, and I agree. However, I fail to see how they expect an association with Britain to assist in solving this problem, especially when they're clearly showing the marks of their own struggle with it.

As we leave Victoria Day and move towards our own celebration of sovereignty on the first of July, let's develop a cultural foundation for the 21st-century Canadian, but let's do it ourselves. Our estranged mother-country has enough to deal with without her 130-something children hanging onto her skirt.



TAKING THE HIGH ROAD

Canada gets active in the battle against Multiple Sclerosis

Written by Nick Frost
Photos by Mike Otto

It's news that any family would dread to hear about one of their own: finding out that an immediate relative has been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. A disease that affects the brain and spinal cord, it runs the gamut of potentially harmful effects—all the way from impaired speech to paralysis of the lower and upper limbs.

Nearly 13 years ago, the Billesberger family was hit with this dose of reality when they found out that their mother, Janice, was suffering from the disease. Though she was only ten years old at the time, U of A grad student Lisa Billesberger can still recount the initial feeling of finding out that her mother had been stricken with such a life-altering affliction.

"I remember when my mom was first diagnosed with MS, the thing that you really remember is that you feel very helpless," Billesberger explained. "There are so many unknowns about this disease that you feel as though you can do nothing for her to help her feel better."

Instead of letting her emotions depress her over the matter, Billesberger—who is about to enter her second year of a Master's degree in medical microbiology and immunology—decided to take the initiative. She put together a team to participate in the MS SuperCities Walk, held annually in 162 locations across Canada, helping to raise both money and awareness in the lengthy battle against MS.

"When I first heard about the Walk, I thought it was a really good opportunity to take action against the disease, instead of wallowing in my own helplessness. On a personal level, it kind of gave me a chance to get back at the disease."

and family members, felt rewarded by their experience the first time around: not only did they want to return for a second year, they wanted to expand their operation.

"Most of my team is actually made up of graduate students, and as such we're really, really busy, so I guess we set ourselves a very modest goal, and that was mainly just to increase the number of team members," Billesberger explained. "Last year, I believe we had something like twelve members, and this year we actually had 20, so we were very happy with that."

"When I first heard about the walk, I thought it was a really good opportunity to take action against the disease, instead of wallowing in my own helplessness. On a personal level, it kind of gave me a chance to get back at the disease."

"In terms of monetary goals, I believe the total numbers aren't in yet, but with the online donations, we have about \$3200, and then with the offline donations, I imagine that number will get closer towards \$4000."

This year marked the 17th edition of the MS SuperCities Walk in Edmonton (and Canada). The event took place on 27 May at Rundle Park, where teams of walkers could participate in 3km and 15km routes, as well as a special 10km route with wheelchair accessibility. This year's Walk featured many special guests as well, including Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach, Edmonton MLA Bharat Agnihotri, Conservative MP Laurie Hawn, and CTV's Erin Isfeld, who was the event's MC.

"It's actually interesting because, I mean, most of the people on my team know my mother, so they know someone who's living with the disease," Billesberger said. "But, as we were forming the team, some of our members talked to their families, and I know, in at least one case, that one of our team members found out that someone in their family had MS that she didn't know about. So it made more personal to her."

The team, which consists of fellow graduate students, personal friends,

aid in discovering possible preventative treatments for MS; the other portion is used to provide care services for people—numbering nearly 11 000 in Alberta and almost 75 000 nationwide—who are already living with the disease.

"We want to find a cure and prevent people from getting MS, but we recognize that there are people living with it right now," Pattison explained. "So, some of the money goes towards yoga classes, information sessions for any people diagnosed, and other things of that nature."

Funding from events such as the Walk—the MS Society's largest fundraiser—has benefited researchers and drug developers, allowing them to make the breakthroughs necessary in both keeping the disease at bay and, in some cases, variably improving the conditions of some who are affected until a cure is found. For all that, Lisa Billesberger and her family are truly thankful.

Initially, Billesberger said, the disease "really did affect [her mother] to the point where she was, essentially, bed-ridden for a period of up to six months.

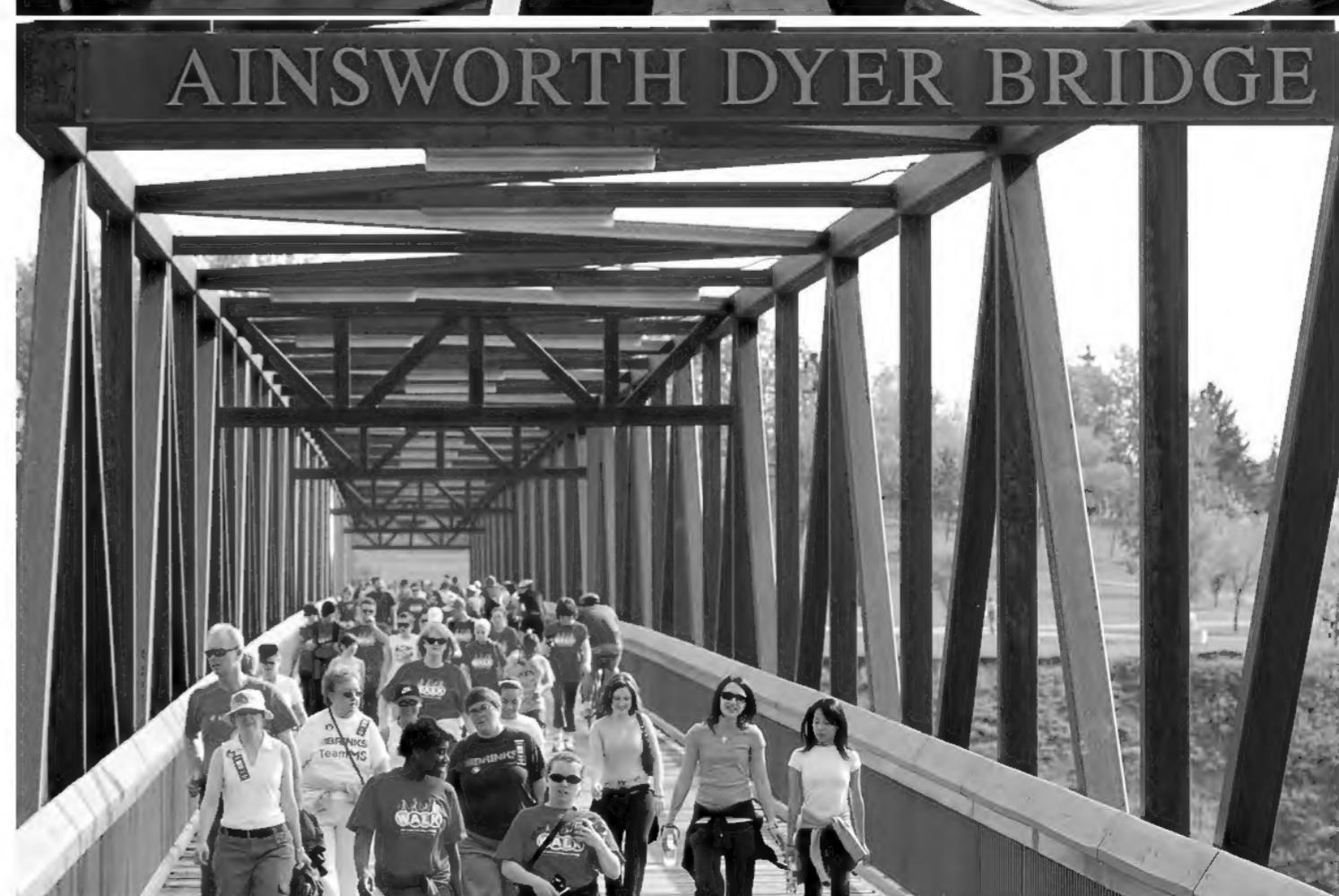
"Her vision was very blurry, cognition was impaired; she had numbness, dizziness—those sort of things. But with the advent of a lot of the new immuno-regulatory drugs, it has improved her life to the point where she can play the piano again, wear high-heels, etc."

"If you were to see her in a store, you wouldn't actually be able to tell if she had this disease—which is why I think I'm so passionate about raising the money to sponsor the research for so many other people, too."

For this team, though, it's a must: apart from providing ample support for the cause, it helps to maintain a positive attitude, keep the mood light, and make sure that the experience of taking part in the Walk is a fulfilling one.

Along with the obvious implication of their name, "Blast MS to the Past" also likes to dress the part: this year, the team walked in '60s garb as an homage to the love-and-peace culture of that time.

"Everyone was really excited to be there—our team was really having a lot of fun dressed up as hippies. And then, we were just really proud of ourselves, too, for raising this money. I mean, it was a Sunday morning: people are usually busy, some people are sick, but nobody is complaining. Everyone is there, completely altruistically, to do something for a good cause."



Weapon winning local hip hop arms race

Cadence Weapon

with DJ Weezel, Kirby Dominant, and Touch and DJ Nato
Friday, 8 June @ 8pm
Starlite Room

RENATO PAGNANI
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Now that "Edmonton rap" is no longer considered an oxymoron, it's time for Rollie Pemberton to shine.

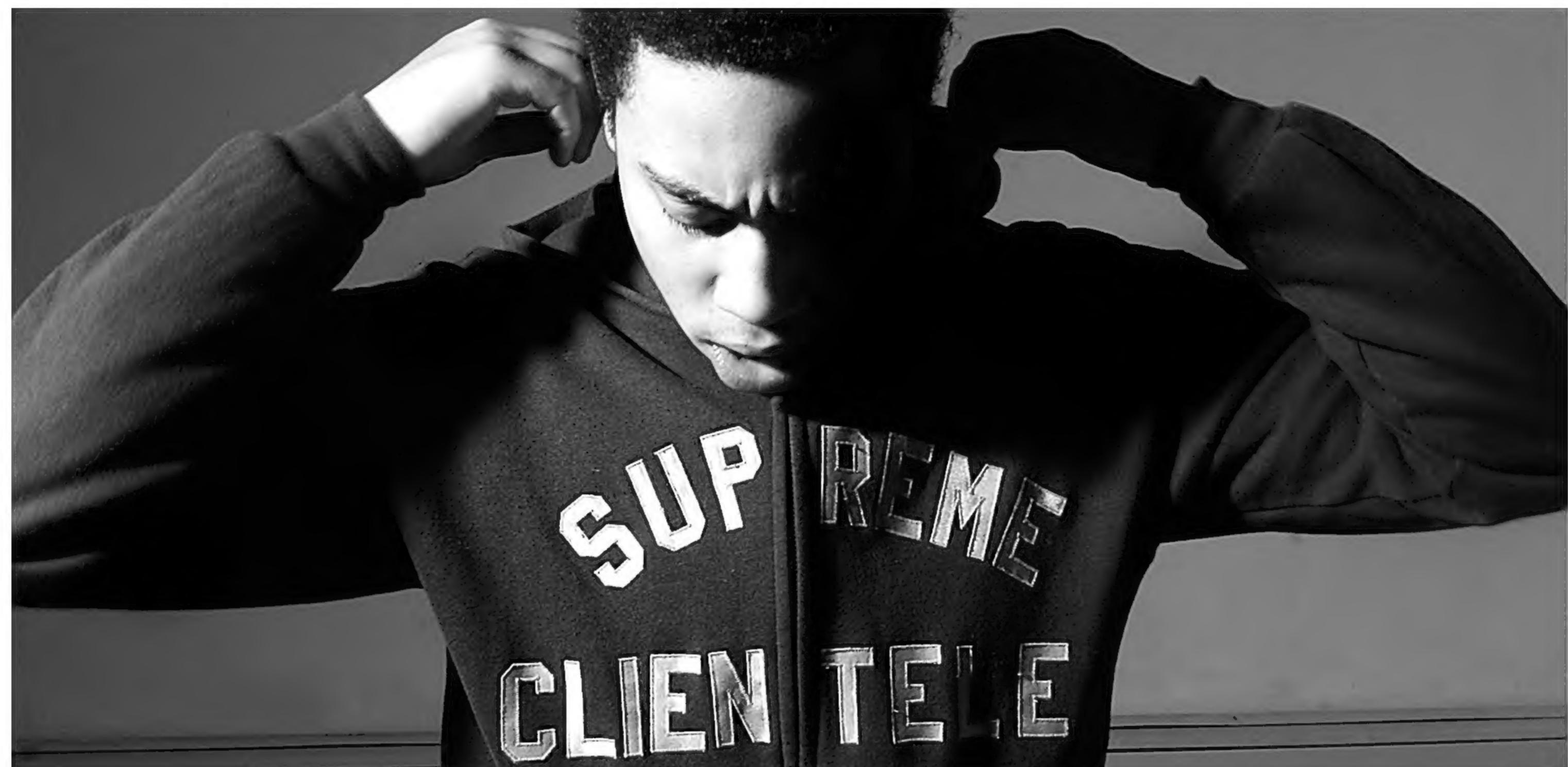
In the last two years, the Edmonton-based rapper—better known as Cadence Weapon—has made the transition from aspiring local talent to international recording artist. He's opened for hip-hop legends like Masta Ace and ?uestlove, toured with indie darlings the Islands, and is now preparing to release his sophomore disc, tentatively titled *Afterparty Babies*, this coming fall.

The album is slated to be released both in the United States and Canada at the same time, unlike 2005's *Breaking Kayfabe*, which was only released this past March in the American market.

Pemberton's success doesn't seem to have gone to his head—although, as he jokingly puts it, "I never will get sick of talking about myself."

"Having people interested in what you're doing and your music is exactly what you want as an artist, he says. "Plus, if you ask anyone, I think they'd tell you the exact opposite about doing interviews."

The 21-year-old recently inked a deal with Epitaph, an independent record label that began primarily as a home for punk bands and which has only recently begun branching out into other genres. In fact, with this



signing, Cadence Weapon becomes only the fifth rap act to become an Epitaph artist, joining a group that includes Atmosphere, Sage Francis, and Danger Doom, the collaboration between MF Doom and super producer DJ Danger Mouse.

A double threat in the music industry, Pemberton, who briefly attended journalism school in the US before dropping out to focus on his career, both raps and produces his own music. While his first mixtape, *Cadence Weapon is the Black Hand*, featured both his own beats and some borrowed from other rappers, he produced his debut LP, *Breaking Kayfabe*, entirely on his own.

Bringing a more electronic sound to Canadian hip hop, the beats on *Black Hand* owed a lot more to the likes of Afrika Bambaataa and Basement Jaxx than modern producers like Kanye West. Clanging, full of synths, even verging on techno in spots, the production was just as fresh as Pemberton's raps about local landmarks and sharks who bite his style.

Having moved away from this sound somewhat in his later work, he now feels torn between the two.

"I couldn't pick one over the other," he says. "I started as a rapper, and I started making beats because there were no local producers who were making beats that complemented my style, so I

just started to make my own."

Returning to Edmonton for his first show in two years has Pemberton excited, but he sounds just as pumped when talking about the imminent release of *Afterparty Babies*. His voice perks up and his passion for the craft is evident as he discusses what to expect on his second full-length release.

"The new record is way more about Edmonton and youth culture in Edmonton," he explains. "I have a song on the new album about a good friend of mine who used to write for *See* [Magazine] back in the day—Julianne Wilding—who I think is quite a character."

"*Afterparty Babies* is kind of a party

record," he continues. "It's way more dance-y than *Breaking Kayfabe* was. It's about partying and life in Edmonton—the interactions between people. I think the notion of people going to a place and jumping around to coordinated lights is very strange, and the record touches on these kind of things."

"I look back on that record [*Breaking Kayfabe*], and I still like the songs, but I know how far I've come since I recorded it—especially as a producer—and I feel the new stuff is very exciting."

Once Pemberton debuts his new material here at home on Friday night, we'll find out just how much more powerful this weapon has become.

Improvaganza making it up as it goes

The Eighth Annual International Improvaganza Festival

13-23 June
Varscona Theatre
Nightly shows @ 8pm; late shows Friday and Saturday @ 11pm; kids' matinees Saturdays @ 2pm

BRYAN SAUNDERS
Arts & Entertainment Staff

In a week's time, Edmonton will be under invasion by the likes of the Kinkonauts, the Pajama Men, and Theatre Im Banhoff. But these aren't the names of strange and savage foreign armies hungry for our oil: these are some of the best improvisational theatre teams the world has to offer.

From 13-23 June, teams from Austria to Vancouver and everywhere in between will converge on the stage of Varscona Theatre for the eighth annual Improvaganza festival.

But Chris Craddock, artistic director of Rapid Fire Theatre, which is playing host to this year's Improvaganza, said that on top of giving Edmonton audiences a chance to see different kinds of improv from all over the world, the festival is also a training ground for local performers.

"Our form is an oral tradition," he explained. "It's advanced not so much by books that are written, or by papers, or by research—the

way that other forms are advanced. They're advanced in this way: by [us] coming together and doing a bunch of [improv] together."

According to Craddock, Rapid Fire's own regular Saturday night show, *Chimprov*, is an example of how the craft is passed along.

"In terms of Edmonton, festivals have been really important. Twelve years ago now, Jacob Bannigan went to [a festival in] Seattle. When he came back, he taught us everything we do now in terms of long-form improv, and invented the show *Chimprov* for us to start exploring this new form. And it was brand-new to us, although it had been practiced elsewhere quite a bit. So it was really revelatory for us," he explained.

Stuart Hoye, a performer with Rapid Fire, agreed that the international festival would be a good example for the local talent.

"The more experience you get with the myriad of ... different forms of improv, the more comfortable you get exploring them; the better improviser you are," he said.

Still, despite the festival's international appeal, Craddock admitted that improv in general is "still struggling to be taken seriously as an artistic form."

"Our exclusion from the Canada Council for the Arts, for example, is sort of proof that improv is not taken as seriously as it might be as a form of

performance," he said.

This exclusion means that Rapid Fire Theatre, unlike other theatre companies or art galleries or museums, is ineligible for funding from the federal government.

For Craddock, however, the emphasis is not on the bottom line but on keeping young people interested in the arts.

"The habitual theatre-going audience, in terms of scripted work, sometimes seems to be of the later generations," he said. "And there's a lot of concern in professional theatre circles that as we start to lose that generation, that maybe theatre will wane in terms of how interested people are. So it's very important to try to sell theatre to a new generation."

Still, Craddock is optimistic that gaining the interest of the youth market is an achievable goal, and hosting an event like Improvaganza is important to help promote that the comedic styling and the theatres that engage in it.

"There's a lot of talk about the younger generation and how dumb they are now because they can't listen to a person talk in a living room for three hours, [but] we are more imaginative. We can look at an image, we can hear a few words, and we can glean so much more information than previous generations have. I don't think that makes us dumber, I think it makes us smarter."



WHERE THE IDEAS COME FROM Improv performer Stuart Hoye hopes the funny will explode from his head during the eighth Improvaganza festival next week.

PHIL HEAD

Destroyer founder puts his shovel away

Frontman Dan Bejar avoids 'bullshit' in his music in favour of sounding good

Destroyer

with Ohbijou and Hylozoists
Friday, 29 June @ 8pm
Starlite Room

RENATO PAGNANI
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Given this country's penchant for politeness, it's difficult to imagine a Canadian musician who throughout his career has been labelled a "journalist's nightmare." But Vancouver's Dan Bejar, part-time member of the New Pornographers and founding member of Destroyer, is puzzled—though mostly amused—about his surreptitious status among the press.

"All I did was say 'no' to doing a couple New Pornographers interviews way the hell back, and all of a sudden I was 'difficult' or 'mysterious,'" Bejar explains. "Then I said 'no' to a couple ill-timed and pointless features [in Canadian publications], and things escalated from there. But the interviews I did always involved me being super-cordial—civil to a fault."

"Fact of the matter is, not that many people had any interest in

talking about Destroyer until two or three years ago, even though the first Destroyer record came out in 1996, the second in '98, the third in 2000, and so on," he continued. "Not that I minded making room for yet another feature on Len or Bran Van 3000, and I still don't mind."

"There is no gibberish in a Destroyer song, as I try hard to stick to words that exist in the English language."

DAN BEJAR

That lack of interest has surely changed, however, as Bejar, along with Destroyer's ever-shuffling supporting cast, has enjoyed heaps of critical acclaim for 2006's *Destroyer's Rubies*. Destroyer's sixth full-length release, *Rubies*—described by Bejar as a cross between '80s Van Morrison and a Catholic Bob Dylan—merges glam rock and an indie sound with Bejar's often obtuse but always visceral lyrics.

His songwriting is often described as dense, self-referential, and theatrical, and Bejar admits that his lyrics might sometimes seem "textual" and cryptic. However, he says that how the sounds interact with each other—their phonologic properties—is indistinguishable to him from any potential "meaning" in his lyrics.

"I don't differentiate between the two things, to the point where I barely understand the question when people break down words into 'sounds' and 'meanings,' which is probably just a sign of how far gone I am in this mess."

"There is no gibberish in Destroyer songs, as I try hard to stick to words that exist in the English language. No Jabberwocky, no *Finnegan's Wake* bullshit that I'm aware of. Sound good equals meaning good, to me. Sound bad equals meaning bad," he adds.

Luckily for Bejar, his lyrical content is engaging enough to keep his dedicated fans analyzing them like the James Joyce novel. Bejar denies drawing inspiration from—at least for his diction choices. This seems to keep his audience happy—just what any nice, upstanding Canadian boy wants to do.



The Ghost is Dancing

The Darkest Spark
Sonic Union

KRISTINA SULATYCKI
Arts & Entertainment Staff

While their sound isn't particularly sophisticated, you can respect The

Ghost is Dancing for their success at combining a variety of different instruments in their songs. They manage to give each track a unique tone while staying true to the band's sound.

Notable successes include the trumpet in "Organ" and the intro to "The Dark and the Bright." The use of the chorus of vocals (or the impression of one) is a unique effect that adds to the mood of the track.

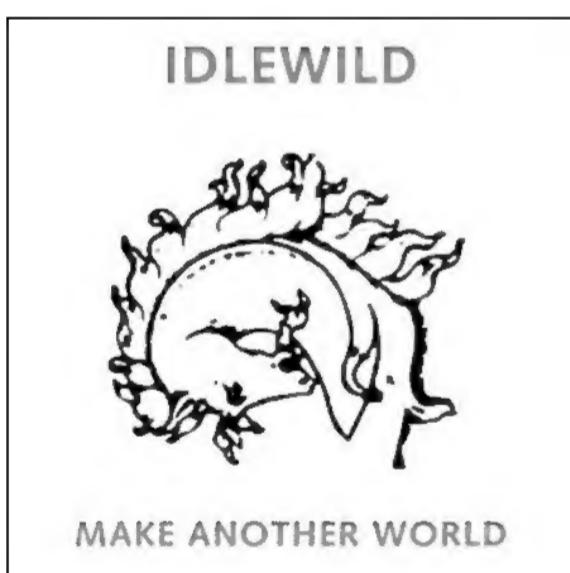
The album is full of interesting transitions from one mood to another and exciting riffs on a variety of instruments. Some are abrupt, some smooth or mellow, but all contribute to a sense of fullness to the music.

But all is not perfect in the Land of the Dancing Ghost. Every now and again, you run into those bumps they

haven't quite ironed out. For example, despite their wide variety of instruments, there are times when even the unique sounds can't compete with the lack of originality in the bass line—see "Wait Another Day."

Their use of string instruments is slightly less successful than the use of other untraditional sounds. "Greatlakescape" showcases the highs and lows of this instrument as the intro, and the beginning of the song have a great string line which eventually disintegrates into small bits of filler before being lost entirely.

While I had my doubts about a nine-member band with nine different instruments, I have to admit that if this is the darkest spark, the future looks pretty bright.



Idlewild
Make Another World
Sanctuary

COLIN KEIGHER
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Can't wait for the Killers' next album?

If you like the sound of the Las Vegas group, you may wish to check out Scottish alternative rock band Idlewild and their sixth album, *Make Another World*. The album certainly feels like a mellowed down Killers album, with a bit of an REM flavour added to it.

The album entered into the UK album chart at number 24, with one of its singles, "No Emotion" placing number 36 on the UK Top-40 charts. Its release also kicked off the band's current tour in the United Kingdom and Japan, and a live concert DVD for this album is expected to be released this coming November.

One of the best songs on the album has to be "No Emotion," as it definitely stands out and is quite fresh

due to its lyrics and guitar use. Other notable songs include "If it Takes You Home" and "Make Another World"—the latter track again showcasing the band's similarity to the Killers. The only real lull on the album is the song "Finish it Remains," which feels way too pop-ish and out of place on this album. Regardless of the comparisons to other groups, the sound that the band produces is refreshing.

In this download-happy age, most people will take a single or two and leave the rest of an album untouched. However, almost all of the songs on *Make Another World* are worth buying a physical copy. This is certainly an album that you can throw in your car's stereo and drive to.



The Brains
Hell n' Back
Stumble Records

MARIA KOTOVYCH
Arts & Entertainment Staff

If you wrote a song with the lyrics

"then I took a cab / zombies ain't too fast / the driver had a juicy head / in about 5 minutes I'll be fed," would you think to set it to a swing beat? The Brains do. These lyrics come from the rockabilly track "More Brains" on *Hell n' Back*, the Brains' newest CD.

The self-described "psychobilly zombies from Montreal" have compiled an energetic, catchy and fun CD whose songs are all about death, blood, brains and bones. However, their treatment of these morbid topics is more comical than morose. The macabre subject matter is set to upbeat instrumentals that incorporate swing and rockabilly beats with punk elements.

If Big Bad Voodoo Daddy played

with the Offspring, the result might sound kinda like the Brains. Some songs, like "Blood," almost seem to channel Jerry Lee Lewis. Even some of the lyrics from "Zombie Riot"—"one for the money / two for the night / we're gonna tear it up / zombie riot"—pay homage to rock & roll lyrics of the past.

The quality of the vocals and harmonies shine through—even while the Brains are singing about drinking blood or eating, well, brains. These are talented musicians who have fun with their music. There are even some spoken-word introductions to songs, which offer good advice on what to do if you ever encounter a zombie—you know, just in case.

THE GATEWAY

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- coordinating collation of the year's issues of the *Gateway* for the production of bound editions at the end of the year.



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